

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 5-18, 21-23, 25-31, 36-48, 50, 51 and 54-59 are pending. By the present amendment, claims 19, 20, 49, 53 and 60 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein, and claims 21, 23, 25, 36, 37, 41, 50 and 54 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments are merely made to rewrite certain claims in independent form and to correct minor typographical informalities. Accordingly, the amendments do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration, and are made merely to put the entire application in condition for allowance. Therefore, entry and consideration of this amendment are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5-18, 33-35, 39-48, 51 and 57-59 are allowed. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 21-23, 25-31, 36-38 and 54-56 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Without acquiescing in any rejections, the objected to claims have either been put in independent form or now depend from a claim that is an independent form of a claim indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Additionally, without acquiescing in any rejections, claims 19, 20, 49, 53 and 60 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein. Claim 50 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 49, and recites that the readout gradient pulse has a main pulse to read out the echo signal and at least one of a

MIYAZAKI et al

Serial No. 09/773,380

Amendment After Final Rejection dated May 13, 2004

Response to Office Action dated December 15, 2003

dephase pulse and a rephase pulse responsible for dephasing and rephasing magnetic spins of the fluid, the pulse being added to the main pulse along a time axis of the main pulse. This feature is similar to the patentably distinct features of other claims, and is therefore also allowable. Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable and the outstanding rejections have been rendered moot. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections and objections are respectfully requested. withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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